CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A network facsimile system comprising:

a plurality of facsimile servers;

a plurality of clients connected to the plurality of facsimile servers over a communication network; and

a supervising server connected to the communication network such that the plurality of facsimile servers and clients communicate with each other via the supervising server.

2. The network facsimile system of claim 1, wherein when the supervising server receives data from one of the clients together with an instruction of facsimile transmission and indication of a recipient, it selects a proper facsimile server, sends the data to the selected facsimile server and instructs the selected facsimile server to send the data to the indicated recipient.

3. The network facsimile system of claim 1, wherein when the supervising server receives data from one of the facsimile servers, it selects a proper client and transfers the data to the selected client.

4. The network facsimile system of claim 2, wherein when the supervising server receives data from one of the facsimile servers, it selects a proper client and transfers the data to the selected client.

5. A network facsimile system comprising:

a plurality of facsimile servers;

a plurality of clients connected to the plurality of facsimile servers over a communication network; and

a supervising server connected to the communication network such that the plurality of facsimile servers and clients communicate with each other via the supervising server, with setting information of each of the plurality of facsimile servers being registered in the supervising server.

6. The network facsimile system of claim 5, wherein when the supervising server receives a request from one of the clients for reference to setting information together with indication of a particular facsimile server, it notifies the one of the clients of the setting information of that facsimile server.

7. The network facsimile system of claim 5, wherein when the supervising server receives setting information from one of the clients along with a request of registration of that setting information and indication of a particular facsimile server, it registers the setting information and also requests the particular facsimile server to register the setting information.

8. The network facsimile system of claim 6, wherein when the supervising server receives setting information from one of the clients along with a request of registration of that setting information and indication of a particular facsimile server, it registers the setting information and also requests the particular facsimile server to register the setting information.

9. A network facsimile system comprising:

a plurality of facsimile servers;

a plurality of clients connected to the plurality of facsimile servers over a communication network;

a supervising server connected to the communication network such that the clients and facsimile servers communicate with each other via the supervising server; and

authorization means associated with the supervising server for authorizing one or more clients among the plurality of clients to administer at least one of setting information of the supervising server and facsimile servers.

10. The network facsimile system of claim 9, wherein the authorization means authorizes different authorities to the plurality of clients respectively.

11. For use in a network facsimile system including a plurality of facsimile servers and clients connected to each other over a communication network, a supervising server connected to the network facsimile system such that the plurality of facsimile servers and clients communicate with each other via the supervising server, the supervising server being able to authorize one or more clients among the plurality of clients to administer at least one of setting information of the supervising server and facsimile servers.

12. The supervising server of claim 11, wherein the supervising server is able to authorize different competences to the plurality of clients respectively.

13. A network facsimile system comprising:

a plurality of facsimile servers;

a plurality of clients connected to the plurality of facsimile servers over a communication network;

a supervising server connected to the communication network such that the plurality of facsimile servers and clients communicate with each other via the supervising server; and

a memory associated with the supervising server for dividing and storing the plurality of facsimile servers and clients into a plurality of groupings.

14. The network facsimile system of claim 13, wherein when data is transmitted between at least one of the plurality of facsimile servers and at least one of the plurality of clients, the supervising server refers to the memory and allows data transmission only among those facsimile servers and clients that belong to a same grouping.

15. For use in a network facsimile system including a plurality of facsimile servers and clients connected to each other over a communication network, a supervising server connected to the network facsimile system such that the plurality of facsimile servers and clients communicate with each other via the supervising server, the supervising server being equipped with a memory for dividing and storing the plurality of facsimile servers and clients into a plurality of groupings.

16. The supervising server of claim 15, wherein when data is transmitted between at least one of the plurality of facsimile servers and at least one of the plurality of clients, the supervising server refers to the memory and allows data transmission only among those facsimile servers and clients that belong to a same grouping.

17. A network facsimile system comprising:

a plurality of facsimile servers;

a plurality of clients connected to the plurality of facsimile servers over a communication network; and

a supervising server connected to the communication network such that the clients and facsimile servers communicate with each other via the supervising server, the supervising server storing recipient information such as telephone numbers of recipient of facsimile data transmission, and the recipient information being able to be referred to by the clients.

18. The network facsimile system of claim 17, wherein each of the recipient information is accompanied by a certain indication such as client's name to indicate which client can refer to which recipient information, whereby the recipient information is categorized in to a first group to which all the clients can refer and a second group to which a particular client or clients can only refer.

19. The network facsimile system of claim 18, wherein the second group of recipient information is accompanied by a plurality of indications such that the plurality of clients refer to the second group of recipient information respectively.

20. For use in a network facsimile system including a plurality of facsimile servers and clients connected to each other over a communication network, a supervising server connected to the network facsimile system such that the plurality of facsimile servers and clients communicate with each other via the supervising server, the supervising server being able to store recipient information such as telephone numbers of recipient of facsimile data transmission such that the recipient information can be referred to by the clients under a certain constraint.

21. The supervising server of claim 20, wherein the recipient information is given a plurality of attribution labels that categorize the recipient information into a first group to which all the clients can refer and a second group to which a particular client or clients can only refer.

22. The supervising server of claim 21, wherein the second group of recipient information is accompanied by a plurality of attribution labels such that the plurality of clients refer to the second group of recipient information respectively.

23. For use in a network facsimile system including a plurality of facsimile servers and clients connected to each other over a communication network, a supervising server connected to the network facsimile system such that the plurality of facsimile servers and clients communicate with each other via the supervising server, wherein when the supervising server receives data from one of the clients together with an instruction of facsimile transmission and indication of a recipient, it selects a proper facsimile server, sends the data to the selected facsimile server and instructs the selected facsimile server to send the data to the indicated recipient.

24. For use in a network facsimile system including a plurality of facsimile servers and clients connected to each other over a communication network, a supervising server connected to the network facsimile system such that the plurality of facsimile servers and clients communicate with each other via the supervising server, wherein when the supervising server receives data from one of the facsimile servers, it selects a proper client and transfers the data to the selected client.